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27 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Construction of a CIA Building.

1. On 23 November 1954 Mr. James A. Garrison, Chief, Logistics Office, and I had lunch with Mr. Maxwell H. Elliott, General Counsel, General Services Administration, and Mr. Peter A. Strobel, Commissioner of Public Buildings. We reviewed the CIA headquarters space situation, the planned construction of a new bridge across the Potomac River, and the eventual demolition of other temporary buildings.

2. It was readily agreed that the CIA headquarters space situation presented a critical problem, the solution to which should be found at an early date. There seemed to be no question in anyone's mind as to the desirability of providing a new CIA building. The GSA officials were, however, keenly aware of the considerations being given by the Office of Defense Mobilization concerning dispersal. We reviewed with Mr. Strobel the necessity for CIA being located in the immediate area of Washington and, I believe, convinced him that it was not feasible for us to disperse to a ten mile limit beyond the urban area and, certainly, that we could not be expected to disperse to the thirty-five mile limit which the Office of Defense Mobilization is reportedly now contemplating.

3. It was agreed that the first hurdle to get over would be an exception to current dispersion standards. This, of course, we all recognise to be a CIA responsibility and are pursuing this matter actively. It was the opinion of the GSA officials that if we could get an exception to these dispersion standards they could provide us with a building. If the Bureau of the Budget and the Congress do not see fit to allow the construction of such a building with appropriated funds then it is their opinion that one could be constructed on a lease-purchase agreement. There would, of course, be many arrangements to be worked out jointly by the General Services Administration and the Central Intelligence Agency but Messrs. Elliott and Strobel seemed reasonably certain that all of the obstacles could be overcome and that we could have a new building in about three years if an exception to the dispersion standards could be obtained.

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DD/A:LKW:laq

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cc: Chief, Logistics Office

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